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Richmond Times-Dispatch

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With Money to Buy

38th YEAR.
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RICHMONT, VA., MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1918.—TEN PAGES.

WEATHER
FAIR

PRICE, TWO CENTS

SOLDIERS HELP TO FIGHT DANGEROUS \$300,000 BLAZE

Plants of Virginia Baking
and Spottless Companies
Are Destroyed.

WATER PRESSURE PROVES
ENTIRELY INSUFFICIENT

Spread of Flames to Spottless
Building Blamed on Small
Size of Main.

SOLDIERS ARE HIGHLY PRAISED

Chiefs Joynes and Sherry Join in Ex-
pressing Appreciation of
Their Services.

Fire of unknown origin broke out in the plant of the Virginia Baking Company, Inc., 200 South Eleventh Street, yesterday morning shortly after 10 o'clock, and within three hours completely destroyed this property and that of the Spottless Company, Inc., which adjoined it on the north, at a loss of \$300,000. A steady wind from the southwest directed the flames away from the buildings of W. S. Forbes & Co., wholesale grocers, on the corner of Tenth and Byrd Streets, and saved them from destruction, but only after considerable damage had been done. City water pressure proved entirely inadequate, according to officials of the Fire Department, four of the streams used being supplied from the private plant of the H. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which pumped water from the low-level canal.

The fire alarm was turned in at 10:22 o'clock, and, although immediate response was made by the firemen, the flames gained considerable headway. The velocity of the fire was increased every moment by a strong southwest wind, making it difficult for the fighters to check it or prevent spreading to other buildings.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

RENDER VALUABLE AID
Soldiers and sailors from every quarter of the city, and many from Camp Lee, were called upon to aid the Fire Department in extinguishing the flames and to keep back the crowd from the danger lines. All told, they numbered about 150, exclusive of the Home Defense League. A number of the Virginia Baking Company's men had orders to evacuate the plant, and, although working under adverse circumstances, the firemen, with the able assistance of the military men and sailors, got the flames under control at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The fire was still burning late last night, but danger from possible spreading to other buildings had been practically removed.

Reserve engine companies of the Fire Department Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17, with hose company No. 16 and Truck 7, 1 and 5, were dispatched to various fire stations throughout the city to cover any outbreaks that might have occurred during the occupation of the rest of the department with the fire.

FIRE BURNING FIERCELY

WHEN ALARM IS RUNG IN
The Spottless Company, a home, farm and sheep supply concern, is a corporation, of which Milton E. Cone is president; Anah C. Kessler, vice-president; and Grant L. Boardley, secretary and treasurer. The stock of the company has been estimated between \$150,000 and \$200,000. George Smith is president of the Virginia Baking Company. R. J. Christian, Jr., is secretary and treasurer. W. S. Forbes is president of the Forbes company; W. L. Boyd is secretary and treasurer.

The fire started shortly after 10 o'clock. The first alarm was turned in at 10:22; five minutes later the general alarm went out, but before the first company reached the scene, at 10:25, the smoke and flame from the Virginia Baking Company were licking at the sky with a single tongue.

It was not more than half an hour till flames burst out the entire roof. A succession of explosions occurred and the interior walls went down in a crash. Apparently the streams of water from the fire hose had little effect. The wind was strong from the southwest, blowing the great tunnels of smoke and flame away from the center of the block and out over a vacant lot and Eleventh Street. This fact doubtless saved the rest of the block. But in spite of this material aid the fire worked with an undertow into the Spottless Company and into the Forbes Company, with the result that the Spottless Company's plant went into ruins in a miraculously short time.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE VIEW

SPECTACULAR BLAZE
By 11 o'clock there were several thousand people to witness the flames. Many folk who had sought refuge in houses of worship looked back and—being turned to pillars of salt—rushed to the scene of the fire. Literally hundreds of people stood on the tops of freight cars on the spur tracks running along Canal Street. And then after services concluded in many of the churches, the crowd continued to grow.

It seemed at one time that two freight cars near the Spottless Company would burn. Soldiers brought up one of the United States Army trucks and pulled the two cars away. After the fire was got under control scores of soldiers and sailors aided the firemen in pulling down the walls of the Spottless Company. And at each thud of falling brick the crowd would cheer the men of the service.

In the same block with the two (Continued on Sixth Page.)

Fuel Administration Makes New Coal Rule

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Coal dealers and distributors are prohibited in a fuel administration order today from adding to the price of coal they now have on hand, the freight rate increases on this commodity which become effective next Tuesday. The advanced freight tariffs may be included in the price only when dealers actually have paid them or become obligated to pay.

Large supplies of coal now held in tidewater pools and by dealers throughout the country were moved under the freight rates now in force, and the administration order is designed to protect the public and the government from unscrupulous dealers.

CHINESE COMPEL RUSSIAN
GENERAL TO WITHDRAW

Belated Account of Fighting at
Irkutsk Between Czech-Slavs
and Red Guards.

CZECHS IN VICTORIOUS BATTLE
Retain Control of Eastern Section of
Trans-Siberian Railway—Give Up
Arms on Intervention of Allied
Consuls.

(By Associated Press.)
HARBIN, Manchuria, June 23.—(Friday) 21.—The Chinese have compelled the withdrawal of the Russian General Orloff's troops on the Pogranichnaya front to Ehor, Manchuria. It is estimated that the total force of the Bolsheviks at Nikolai is between 2,500 and 3,000 Red Guards, including Czech deserters and German prisoners armed with field and machine guns.

A belated story of the fighting of the Czech-Slavs and the Red Guard at Irkutsk early in June has reached Harbin. A trainload of Czechs, armed with rifles and hand grenades, arrived in Irkutsk. It was immediately surrounded by 200 members of the Red Guard, who gave the Czechs fifteen minutes to surrender. Before the expiration of the time, the train was fired upon with machine guns from the windows of the station and fifteen men were killed and fifty wounded.

The Czechs then charged with hand grenades and disarmed the Bolsheviks, capturing six machine guns and 200 rifles. The Soviet government sent reinforcements of 600 Red Guards and more machine guns, and also armored cars, to the Czechs, who defeated and captured, meanwhile, a body of Czechs, hearing the firing, came from Vonnai. While crossing the Angara Bridge they were fired on by Austrians from a former prison camp. The Czechs charged the camp, killing a number of persons, and searched the barracks and unearthed six wagonloads of munitions which had been distributed to prisoners by General von Taube. Two days later the Czechs captured the arsenal and main battery and were in a position to issue an unlimited ultimatum to the Soviets, demanding complete disarmament of the city and control of the railway, but the allied consuls at Irkutsk demanded that the Czechs return the captured arms to the Soviet and give up their own arms to the Soviet, which guaranteed them protection and transportation to Vladivostok. A compromise was arranged through the consuls.

Colonel George H. Emerson, former general manager of the Great Northern Railway, says the Trans-Siberian Railway from Krasnoyarsk eastward remains in control of the Czechs, but that the stations are nominally in the hands of the Red Guards. Colonel Emerson says the fighting has been due to the fact that the Czech soldiers in Russia have been detained by order of Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik War Minister. He says there are 35,000 Czechs in Russia proper; 15,000 in Siberia, west of Irkutsk, and 15,000 in the vicinity of Vladivostok. The Soviets have agreed in the future not to arm prisoners.

PARAGUAY APPROVES
U. S. WAR PRINCIPLES

No Hope for Division of Nations of
Two Americas, Declares
President.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, June 23.—President Wilson's proposal of American solidarity as expressed recently to the Mexican editors has met with prompt approval in Paraguay. A dispatch received here today by the Pan-American Union said that Dr. Manuel Franco, President of Paraguay, had endorsed Mr. Wilson's plan in these words:

"Paraguay accepts to the fullest extent the principles of American solidarity as enunciated by the President of the United States of America. There is no room for divisions among the nations of the two Americas when events arise that may profoundly affect the international status of the world.

"The security of the peace as well as the moral and material progress of the community of nations depends upon final triumph of American principles which have been given to the world by the President of the United States."

DROP BOMBS ON BAPAUME

British Aviators Let Fifteen Tons Fall
on Ammunition Dumps, Docks
and Stations.

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, June 23.—Fifteen tons of bombs were dropped by British aviators yesterday on an ammunition dump at Bapaume, on the Bruges docks and on the Armentieres and Stenwerk stations. The War Office announced tonight.

The day was windy and there were no air combats.

SENATOR SWANSON WANTS THREE STARS

Virginian Declares Commandant
of Marine Corps Should
Be Elevated.

"ROCKING-CHAIR HERO" TALK

Expected to Blaze Forth Again
When Senate Considers
Insignia Bill.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—What's the United States Senate going to do tomorrow about giving a Lieutenant general's three blazing stars to Major-General George Barnett, commandant of the marine corps?

Indignant that the House refused to elevate the chief of the "soldiers of the sea" last week, the Senate conferees on the naval bill will ask their own body tomorrow to meet the House action with unqualified defiance.

Senator Swanson, of Virginia, acting chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, and one of the conferees, does not fear the result. He believes the Senate will stand squarely back of its conferees.

But there is small doubt that the charges of "rocking-chair heroism" and "bomb-proof jobs" hurled last week in the House will be given the Senate air, even if the conferees do "not over" a successful vote for the amendment.

The Senate has already once sanctioned the Secretary of the Navy. Daniel's does not consider it a "military necessity" that the marine corps commandant should receive the higher rank. The secretary's views, however, do not appear to matter much to the conferees.

"Whether it's a military necessity or not, I can't see why the marines should be deprived of this honor," said Senator Swanson today.

"And we are going to fight to the last ditch for it."

"There has been a lot of talk about this rank being 'given' to General Barnett. Who said it was intended for General Barnett alone? That's absurd. It's intended for the commander of 30,000 men, whoever he may happen to be."

CAN PICK MAN TO
WEAR THREE STARS
"It does not have to be General Barnett. The secretary and the President have the right to pick any man who is fighting in France or any man in the corps, and make him a general."

"It doesn't have to be General Barnett, or any other particular individual."

"The marine corps commander should have the same rank as the head of any army corps. It's not fair otherwise."

"For the life of me, I can't see why the marine corps should be refused this. I don't suppose any one will question that they have been the best American fighting men to go 'over the top.'"

"This is a temporary appointment for the period of the war. We have temporary generals in the army and temporary admirals in the navy. Why can't we have a temporary lieutenant-general in the marine corps?"

"And as far as General Barnett is personally concerned, all this talk about his having spent all his time in staff work is rot. He's a line officer, and he has had his service with the line. It is only at this time that he is placed in command of the corps for four years."

"But the President can put anybody else in. I say again, this rank is not 'given' to General Barnett, as some of the House critics assert, but to the man at the head of the crack fighting corps which both houses of Congress have agreed to raise to more than 75,000 men."

Senator Swanson commented that the House vote on the Barnett issue succeeded by a majority of only twenty-nine, and there were not more than one-quarter of the House members present when it was taken.

He would not make predictions on a further House vote.

PRESIDENT'S LATEST ORDER
INCREASES PRICE OF WHEAT

New York Corporation Is Authorized
to Increase Capital to
\$150,000,000.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, June 23.—Blanket authority to increase the price of wheat at primary and other markets, with the approval of Food Administrator Hoover, above the \$2.20 a bushel minimum price guaranteed by presidential proclamation last February 21, is given to the food administration grain corporation in New York by an executive order of the President. The order, issued under authority of the food control law, was made public today by Mr. Hoover.

To carry out the purposes of the order, the corporation is authorized to increase its capital stock from \$50,000,000 to \$150,000,000 in shares of a par value of \$100 each. All the stock will be owned by the government and will be purchased by the food administration from time to time as the necessity arises to maintain the present \$2.20 price and any increases authorized.

MEDAL FOR ANNA HELD

Noted Actress, Whose Relief Work in
Paris Broke Down Her Health,
Is Honored.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, June 23.—Miss Anna Held, the actress, whose recent critical illness is attributed in part to overwork in connection with the relief work in Paris during the first two years of the war, was greatly cheered today when she was presented with a medal by the Serbian legation in the United States, brought to her bedside by a nurse, which has been awarded to her by the Serbian government in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the allies. Miss Held's condition is improving daily.

MEN AND DOG LAND

Norfolk Naval Ordnance, However, Re-
fuse to Give Out Any Facts
Concerning Them.

(By Associated Press.)
NORFOLK, VA., June 23.—Twenty men and one dog, all in rather bad shape, were landed here today by an incoming vessel.

More than the bare announcement that they are survivors of a British steamer could not be secured from naval authorities at this port. The statement was made that a full report had been made to the Navy Department, and that no one here was authorized to give any information.

PREMIER VISITS GENERAL PERSHING

Other Noted War Chiefs Present
at Important Military
Conference.

CO-OPERATION IS DISCUSSED

Troops That Landed Less Than
Week Ago Are In-
spected.

(By Associated Press.)
PARIS, June 23.—Premier Clemenceau passed the day at American headquarters. He was accompanied by General Pershing, the French high commissioner to the United States, and recently appointed head of the new department for Franco-American cooperation in the war. They took luncheon with General Pershing and afterward inspected the American troops.

An important military conference was held during the afternoon. Among those present were M. Clemenceau, General Pershing, General Foch, who came especially for the occasion; Captain Tardieu, Major-General MacAndrew and General Mordacq and Wegand.

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Questions concerning Franco-American co-operation were discussed, and the measures to be taken within the next few months in concert were talked over. Complete agreement was reached on all points.

The troops quartered where the inspection was held belong to a division which landed less than a week ago. They were presented to M. Clemenceau by General Pershing and Major-General MacAndrew. The magnificent bearing of the men and their perfect training strongly impressed the Premier, who greeted them and realized for himself their desire to get into the line as early as possible and their determination to win.

PREMIER TELLS PEOPLE
WHAT U. S. IS DOING
General Pershing hurriedly assembled the officers of the regiment in the cantonment when Premier Clemenceau arrived. The Premier spoke a few words to the officers, expressive of the great confidence of France in the men from overseas and of thanks for the aid she was receiving from America at the decisive hour of the struggle for the liberty of the world.

The Premier then spoke to the villagers who had assembled when the news of his presence became known and mingled with the American soldiers who crowded round him. The Premier explained to the people what America was doing in order to bring its greatest strength to the aid of the allies with the maximum of rapidity. The mayor of the village made a brief speech in reply.

"All right," he said. "We can wait as long as is necessary, for we have confidence."

FIRST BATTLE VICTIMS
ARRIVE AT BALTIMORE

Several Gassed Men Are Among List,
While Another Is Injured
Aviator.

BALTIMORE, June 23.—The first detachment of Pershing's gassed and wounded men arrived at Fort Mifflin Hospital today. Among the patients is an infantryman suffering from mustard gas poisoning. He has not regained the full power of his speech and can only talk in whispers. He is Sergeant Hubert Hill, from Lufkin, Tex.

Private William G. Rowland, of Los Angeles, Cal., was also gassed. He is a member of the Seventh Cavalry, and was on detached service with the ammunition train horse section at Toul.

Private Charles G. Hopkins, infantryman, of Madison, Tex., who was wounded last November at Toul, claims to be the first American wounded in action.

One night the Germans raided the American trenches, and during the fighting Hopkins was wounded in the left arm. He continued firing until the Germans had been beaten back.

Sergeant Harry D. Marrell, of San Francisco, member of the aviation corps, is suffering from a compound fracture of the left arm. Marrell was up 5,000 feet testing out a plane when the engine became disabled and the plane fell. The machine straightened out at an altitude of 100 feet. It fell into a haystack, saving Marrell's life.

TO VISIT HAMPTON SOON

Senate Air Craft Investigating Com-
mittee Will Come to Virginia
This Week.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, June 23.—Members of the Senate Aircraft Investigating Committee returned here today after visiting aircraft production plants in New Jersey and Long Island. Several members of the committee said that while the plants inspected are beginning to reach a stage where production soon can begin on a quantity basis, conditions found were not satisfactory.

The committee, of which Senator Thomas of Colorado is chairman, plans to visit Langley Field, the army aviation station, near Hampton, Va., this week and to conduct hearings in Washington.

FIFTEEN HURT IN TRAIN

Exhaust Valve Blows Out, Spraying
Gilt-Edged Express Passen-
gers With Steam.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW LONDON, June 23.—Fifteen persons were injured, twelve more or less seriously, when an exhaust valve on a passing locomotive blew out and sprayed steam under heavy pressure through windows of the three rear coaches of the Gilt-Edged Express, New York to Boston, at Saybrook Junction, on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad to-night. None of the injured is believed to be fatally hurt.

AUSTRIAN INVADERS DEFEATED IN ITALY

Germans in State of Unrest and Plan
Revolt; Claim of Arriving Passengers

(By Associated Press.)
AN ATLANTIC PORT, June 23.—Germany, war weary and ill fed, is in a state of unrest so acute that talk of revolt against the imperial government is common among both the military and civil populations, according to Americans who arrived here to-night on a Norwegian liner, after long residence in Germany or adjacent neutral countries.

Officers and men, the voyagers said, had told them of a sullenness which is widespread in the German army, predicting that it would reach the point where the troops would refuse to fight.

"You see that I wear the coat of the Kaiser. I only wish that you could know the feeling that lies beneath it, for we are not going to stand this forever," a German major told Miss Olga Wursberg, of Grand Rapids, Mich., according to her story on coming ashore. The conversation, she declared, took place in a hospital at Godesberg, Germany, where the officer talked freely to her, not suspecting that she was an American. Under the same conditions, she declared, a private soldier said to her:

"Some day we are all going to put down our arms. Why should we fight? Our officers now, instead of leading us, go behind us with their guns at our backs."

Miss Wursberg, daughter of Frederick Wursberg, a wealthy Grand Rapids merchant who was born in Germany and a naturalized American citizen, declared that the morale throughout Germany is poor, and the people near revolt. With her family, who resided with her, she has lived six years in Germany. She asserted that soldiers in the hospitals improve very slowly, no poor is the food given them.

Carl E. Olivarius, a Milwaukee lawyer, who returned from a trip through Norway, Sweden and Denmark, declared that food is so scarce in these countries that little can be spared Germany. Reporting conversations with travelers from the Teuton empire, he said:

"No one in Germany speaks of victory. They always talk of food. The war, in the minds of the civilian population, has become secondary to efforts to get enough to eat."

Leon Hains, of this city, who has resided the last five years in Dresden, declared that Saxony is well supplied with food, but conditions in Berlin and other large cities are "terrible."

MANY WRECK VICTIMS
NOT YET IDENTIFIED

Total Death Toll in Indiana Crash
Reaches Sixty-Two, With Many
Bodies Charred.

INQUEST DUE ON MONDAY
Engineer Alonzo K. Sargent Will Be
Important Witness When Coroner
Begins His Inquiry Into Cause of
Smash.

(By Associated Press.)
GARY, IND., June 23.—Sixty-two bodies of Hagenbeck-Wallace circus employees, who were killed in the wreck six miles west of here on the Michigan Central Railroad early Saturday, lay in morgues here and at Hammond, Ind., to-night, while circus officers made frantic efforts to compile an accurate list of dead and injured.

Only twenty-four of the bodies had been identified. Most of the others were charred and mangled beyond recognition.

Edward M. Ballard, general manager of the circus, to-night issued a statement, saying figures compiled indicated that probably eighty-five persons had been killed. He said a hasty tabulation of scattered employees showed that sixty were missing in addition to the twenty-four identified dead. Most of the missing were said to be "tramp-backs," many of them negroes. F. S. Whipple, railroad trainmaster, also has been given up as dead.

Parts of two bodies cremated in the furnace of tangled steel and timbers which were missing in addition to the twenty-four identified dead, were dug out to-night. The authorities said that if the death list is as great as estimated by circus men, the additional bodies probably were reduced to ashes.

An inquest will be held at Hammond to-morrow and Gustav Klaus, fireman of the empty troop train, has been ordered brought to Hammond to testify.

"We will have the engineer, Alonzo K. Sargent, present when we are ready for him," was all Deputy Coroner Greene, of Lake County, would say. Sargent is being held in Kalamazoo, Mich.

New York and Chicago theatrical men and officers of the Showmen's League sent representatives today to offer assistance to the injured and relatives of the dead.

None of the \$25,000 in cash reported by circus officers as being lost in the wreckage was recovered.

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AMERICAN COAL MINES
PRODUCE GREAT TONNAGE

Record Shows 12,571,000 Tons to
Have Been Brought to Surface
During Past Week.

AN EXCESS OF 170,000 TONS
Tennessee and Kentucky Lead All
Other Fuel-Producing States, With
5 Per Cent Output, While Ohio
and Pennsylvania Show Loss.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, June 23.—American mines continued their record production of bituminous coal last week by turning out 12,571,000 tons, an increase of 170,000 tons over the high mark of the week before, and 1,137,000 tons in excess of the output during the same week last year.

In announcing these figures to-day the Geological survey said the increased output during the week in Central Pennsylvania was 1 per cent, Tennessee and Kentucky 5 per cent, and Alabama 5 per cent. There was a loss of 10 per cent in the Pittsburgh and Panhandle district, and 7 per cent in Ohio. Improved supply of coal cars and better labor conditions were largely responsible for the gain in production in the week ended June 8, the first week when bituminous production exceeded 12,000,000 tons.

The mines turned out \$23 per cent of their full capacity, the greatest loss still being due to car shortage, with labor shortage, including strikes and mine disability, continuing as contributing causes.

Anthracite shipments last week were 4,196 cars, an increase of 1,206 cars, or 3 per cent over the week of June 8.

HUT WORKERS HONORED
FOR BRAVERY AT FRONT

Triad of Y. M. C. A. Workers Join
Stretcher Benders and Carry
Wounded From Field.

(By Associated Press.)
PARIS, June 23.—Several Young Men's Christian Association workers of the American front northwest of Toul have been recommended for citations for exemplary conduct displayed in the recent fight at Nivray.

Captain Wharton, of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia; Benton Johnston, of Detroit, Mich.; and Alfred Stokes, of Stamford, Conn., joined stretcher bearers and carried out wounded men under fire or stood at the entrance of dressing stations under fire giving wounded soldiers drinks and lighted cigarettes.

In many cases, the doctors say, the Y. M. C. A. workers gave the wounded men the necessary stimulus to save their lives.

Gas shelling is so constant and active on the front that canteen workers serve for hours behind counters wearing masks. Drivers of Y. M. C. A. supply trucks also are compelled to mask.

BALLOON BASKET WASHED
ASHORE AT CONEY ISLAND

Brooklyn Navy-Yard Officials Have No
Word of Missing
Craft.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, June 23.—Speculation as to the fate of its possible occupants was aroused to-day when the basket of a naval observation balloon was washed ashore at Coney Island. It contained no attachments, save its four one-inch steel supporting cables which had apparently parted from strain. There were no means of determining how long it had been immersed.

Officers at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard said they had no information regarding a missing basket. Bath Beach training station officials were equally at a loss to account for its presence. They hazarded the view that it might have been blown into the sea from some naval station further down the coast.

ATTEMPT TO CROSS TO EASTERN SHORE OF SWOLLEN PIAVE

Enemy in Retreat From
Montello Plateau to
Adriatic Sea.

MANY PONTOON BRIDGES
SWEEP AWAY BY FLOOD

Tremendous Preparations Made
for Final Crushing of the
Italian Armies.